

NEWSBRIEFS

Spotlight

Retirement Ceremony: The 437th Communications Squadron is hosting a retirement ceremony for Master Sgt. James Gonnella April 28 at 3 p.m. in the Community Education Center. All base personnel are invited to attend.

Change of command: Maj. Herbert Phillips, Jr. will relinquish command of the 437th Supply Squadron Monday at 3 p.m. in the Receiving Area of Bldg. 611. Maj. George Pierce II will assume command of the squadron June 16.

Around the base

Car wash: A car wash, sponsored by the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Committee, will be held today from noon to 4 p.m. at the Dorchester Road Burger King.



New location: The 437th Airlift Wing Historian's Office has moved from Bldg. 1600 to Bldg. 245, Room 216.

Quarterly awards: The 437th Airlift Wing quarterly awards breakfast

is May 3 at 7:30 a.m. at the Charleston Club.

Cost for the breakfast buffet is \$7 for club members and \$9 for non-members. Contact your unit first sergeant to sign up by April 28.

Host needed: The 437th Airlift Wing is looking for volunteers to help host 50 members of U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Squadron 5 May 4-7.

The cadets, who are visiting as part of the Cadet Squadron Sponsor Program, will need places to stay during their visit. Those interested in hosting a cadet can call 1st Lt. Jeff Nelson or 1st Lt. Rob Hamill at 963-5874.

Celebration: The 14th Airlift Squadron is hosting a Cinco De Mayo Celebration and Auction May 5 at 6 p.m. at the Charleston Club. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the 14 AS. For information, call 963-2158.

Base yard sale: Now that spring is here, it's time to clean out the old attic and garage and prepare for the base-wide yard sale May 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Consignment Shop is sponsoring the event at the picnic grounds near Outdoor Recreation. Tables inside the pavilions cost \$10 and \$8 outside the pavilions.

Anyone interested in signing up should stop by the Consignment Shop, Bldg. 203. Hours of operation are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Reunion

There will be a 354th Tactical Fighter Wing (1977-1993, A-10 era) reunion June 10 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Club in Murrell's Inlet, S.C. The event begins at 2 p.m. Reservations should be made by April 30. For more information or to RSVP, call Don Ollis or retired Chief Master Sgt. Gary Moser at (843) 347-6248 or (843) 347-0336.

Volunteers needed: Planning is under way for Air Expo 2000, scheduled for Oct. 14. Anyone interested in helping with Charleston AFB's premier annual event can call Maj. Petra Sharrett at 963-5656.

Education

Scholarships available: The local chapter of Daedalians is sponsoring a Flight Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, with potential matching funds from the national headquarters for a total of \$2,000.

The scholarship is available to high school seniors or college students who demonstrate the desire and potential to become a commissioned military pilot. For information, call Lt. Col. Luke Howard at 863-7142 or Capt.

Easter Egg Hunt: There will be a basewide Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at 1 p.m. behind the base chapel. Children between the ages of 3 to 7 are invited to attend and should bring their own baskets. For information, call 963-2536.



Brian Newberry at 856-4014.

Top 3 grants: The deadline for submitting an application for the next Charleston AFB Top 3 Educational Grant is May 24. The Top 3 selects one deserving person quarterly to receive \$100 to encourage pursuit of higher education.

Anyone pursuing a CCAF degree is eligible to apply. Applications are available at the Community Education Center.

Family Support Center

Pre-Deployment Briefings, 8 a.m., Monday; 4 p.m., Thursday.

How to Develop A Spending Plan Workshop, 9-11 a.m., Wednesday.

Checkbook Management, 1-2:30 p.m., Wednesday.

Troops-To-Teachers, 10-11 a.m., Monday.

Car Buying Workshop, 9-11 a.m., Tuesday.

Violence & Youth, 1-4 p.m., Tuesday. This workshop is designed to raise awareness about violence in our society, address theories associated with violence and empower you to develop strategies for lessening violent behavior among youth in our community and within our homes.

SMOOTH Move, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Thursday.

Securing Your Financial Future, 9-11 a.m., April 28.

All workshops are held at the FSC unless otherwise noted. For information or to register, call 963-4406.

Charleston Profile

Senior Airman Chad Helmer 437th Operations Support Squadron

Senior Airman Chad Helmer is a weather forecaster with the 437th Operations Support Squadron Weather Flight. His duties include issuing weather reports, high wind advisories and watches and warnings for severe weather. The weather flight's cus-



Staff Sgt. Michael Duhe

tomers include aircrews and various agencies on base. Helmer and other flight members provide more than a dozen weather briefings on a daily basis.

Helmer is originally from Marrero, La., which is near New Orleans. He joined the Air Force in October 1995 after getting some good advice from his father, who retired from the Air Force.

"I was going to college, but I wasn't really into it," Helmer said. "I talked to my dad, who was prior military, and he told me about the benefits of joining the Air Force - working on an education and learning a job that could be a stepping stone to another career."

Helmer arrived here in January after attending forecasting school at Keesler AFB, Miss. He said he's interested in earning a degree in meteorology and is considering applying for the Airman Education and Commissioning Program.

Helmer and his wife, Suki, are expecting their first child in June.

In his spare time, Helmer enjoys golf and playing musical instruments, including acoustic guitar, bass guitar and drums.

Although Helmer is still becoming familiar with the area, he's impressed with what he has seen already. "There are a lot of nice golf courses in the area," he said.

Reminders

■ All members enrolled in the Family Member Dental Plan should check their Leave and Earning Statements to determine if premiums are being deducted for the correct coverage.

Rates are:

Single - \$8.53 per month

Family - \$21.33 per month.

■ Active duty members should ensure their DD Form 93 (emergency data card) information is up to date.

■ The Survivor Benefit Plan briefing is mandatory for all members retiring. When your retirement date is within four months, call the Casualty Assistance Office at 963-4521 to schedule an appointment.